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Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC

Re: RM-10352

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my support for the RM-10352 petition currently under consideration at the FCC. Currently the higher portion of the 160 meter Amateur band (1900 - 2000 KHz) is underutilized with most of the operating activity concentrated in the lower portion of the band (1800 - 1860 KHz). During periods of heavy band usage (contests, low sunspot years, etc) those amateurs using SSB voice tend to migrate down in frequency as competition for available frequencies increases. By moving down in frequency instead of moving up towards the higher end of the band, they are more likely to cause interference with those operators using narrow band modes like CW. The new mode segmentation rule will force SSB operators to go up in frequency instead of down, thus decreasing the likelihood of conflicts with narrow band operators. This new rule will be consistent with the voluntary band plan recently adopted by the ARRL with the support of a large majority of 160 meter operators, but with the added benefit of regulatory force which should be helpful in dissuading the vocal minority of operators who unfortunately have been known to ignore the traditional band plan for the sole purpose "proving a point".

As an amateur extra class operator who has been licensed for the last 23 years and a frequent operator on the 160 meter Amateur band, I fully support the adoption of the regulations prescribed under the RM-10352 petition.

Thank you,

Michael C. Tope, W4EF